

paramedics are working to preserve the public safety. These men and women wake up every morning and head to work not knowing what dangers they may encounter during their shift. The loss of Officer Brad Fox serves as a somber reminder of the risks our police officers face each and every day.

Here in our Nation's capital, just a few miles from where I stand at this very moment, is the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Etched into this memorial are the names of countless men and women who gave their lives in service to their communities. Sadly, Officer Brad Fox will join that roll of honor.

Also carved on the memorial are quotes which capture the spirit of those honored there, including one from former President George H.W. Bush, which reads:

Carved on these walls is the story of America, of a continuing quest to preserve both democracy and decency, and to protect a national treasure that we call the American Dream.

There can be no doubt that Officer Bradley Fox did his part in his quest to preserve the American Dream. Our country owes a debt of gratitude to Officer Fox and to his family for the sacrifice he made and they made to keep his community a safe place to work and to live and to raise a family.

□ 1030

A WORLD AT PEACE, FOR OUR GRANDCHILDREN AND THEIR GRANDCHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, in April of the year 2004, I rose in this Chamber to speak for 5 minutes about my conviction that the war in Iraq was a dangerous, immoral policy, and it was hurting America and our national security.

Since then, I've delivered a similar message nearly every day that it was possible when we were in session, and once the Iraq war finally drew to a close, I moved on to focus on the ongoing military occupation of Afghanistan, which soon will be in its 11th year, costing us more than 2,000 American lives and more than half a trillion dollars and counting.

Today is my 440th 5-minute Special Order calling for an end of these wars and the safe return of our troops to their families right here at home. I'm not proud of having reached that number. I would much prefer that the speeches were no longer necessary.

But since I'm retiring from the House at the end of this year, my 20th year in Congress, one of my biggest disappointments is that we haven't shown the leadership, the courage, and the resolve to finally secure peace.

We are still mired in this Afghanistan conflict, even though the evidence

is overwhelming that it's doing more harm than good, even though it's emboldening terrorists and insurgents rather than defeating them, even though it's breeding resentment of America instead of winning hearts and minds. We are still mired in this conflict, even though a clear majority of the American people no longer want any part of it.

I will not return to the House in 2013, so this will be one of my final opportunities to press this point. But as long as our troops remain in harm's way, and as long as this dreadful policy continues, I will continue to speak out and speak up.

I know there are many proud and fearless opponents of this war on both sides of the aisle who will continue to lead this effort right here in Congress. Time and time again what I have advocated is not just an end to these wars, but the beginning of a new approach to combating terrorism and keeping America safe.

We need to lead with American co-operation and compassion around the world, not American weapons and brute force. We need SMART Security, a plan that puts the focus on development and diplomacy. We need a strategy that gives people hope and improves their lives instead of invading and occupying their lands.

This is not only the humane approach, Mr. Speaker, it's also the more pragmatic one, the one that will truly advance our national security goals, and it's a lot more cost-effective. Helping people costs pennies on the dollar compared to waging war. A lot of people have said to me over the years, WOOLSEY, your problem is that you think we can have a perfect world. Well, consider me guilty as charged.

I don't believe there is anything wrong with idealism and ambitious goals because I'm absolutely certain that if we don't strive for a perfect world, we won't ever come close to providing a safe, secure, and peaceful world for our grandchildren and their grandchildren, and that's our job here in Congress.

ENERGY CLOSURES AND LAYOFFS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week another American energy-producing company announced plant closures and worker layoffs, citing the Obama administration's authoritarian regulatory regime in part as a rationale for its decision.

Yesterday Alpha Natural Resources announced closures of eight coal mines in three States, one of which is located in the Fifth Congressional District of Pennsylvania, which I'm proud to represent. Company officials, in announcing the closures, cited "a regulatory environment that's aggressively aimed at constraining the use of coal."

The decision will result in layoffs of 1,200 workers and an immediate 400 jobs lost in Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

The fact that the coal industry is facing tough times isn't news. They have other energy competitors, including natural gas, and challenges with coal transport costs, energy, and labor costs. The issue that's newsworthy is the additional burden being placed on American employers during such difficult and tough economic times.

The administration's announced intentions to eliminate coal, our most abundant natural resource, from our fuel mix, with no clear plan to replace it with any effective alternative, has taken a significant toll on employers and individuals across my home State.

Here are several news headlines of closures and layoffs in my home district from the past several months:

September 18 headline: "Alpha Natural Resources closing eight coal mines." Twelve hundred companywide layoffs and an immediate 400 jobs cut in Virginia, West Virginia, and my home State of Pennsylvania.

August 30 headline: "Another round of Joy workers laid off," The Derrick:

In August, Joy Mining Manufacturing in Franklin, Venango County, Pennsylvania, posted another round of employee layoffs, and 43 employees were notified they had been furloughed from their jobs. The week before that, 19 others were laid out. Joy Mining is the largest private-sector employer in Venango County.

February 9 headline: "Local Officials Respond to Shawville Power Plant Closure":

GenOn Energy has about 80 employees at its plant in Shawville, Clearfield County, and contributes roughly \$225,000 dollars annually in local taxes. GenOn offers jobs not only through its plant but through Amphire coal and trucking firms, which means a loss of 100 to 200 workers in it is next several years.

January 26 headline: "FirstEnergy Shutting Down 6 Sites in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland":

In January, FirstEnergy announced that the new environmental regulations led to a decision to shut down six older coal-fired power plants in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, affecting more than 500 employees.

Coal operations are closing, forcing more workers into unemployment as countless indirect coal jobs have been put at risk because of the President's unwavering commitment to end coal. Our most abundant natural resource is a source of domestic energy.

In the aftermath of all these closures and job losses in my district, along with numerous across my State and the country, it is becoming increasingly clear that this administration expects the consumers of Pennsylvania to bear the costs of a poorly thought out, poorly defined, and poorly explained environmental agenda.

But it's not just a war on coal, it's a war on electricity and jobs. The shuttering of a record number of coal-fired power plants threatens thousands of

the 555,270 direct and indirect coal-related jobs that help supply America with nearly half of its generated electricity and pay \$36 billion in wages.

The nonpartisan U.S. Energy Information Administration has all but confirmed the President's aggressive push against coal development with a report detailing a record number of coal-fired power plants to be closed this year, largely because of the burdensome regulations and other compliance costs. That's why this week the U.S. House will pass H.R. 3049, to push back on the President's commitment to end coal as a source of domestic energy and protect the countless jobs that have been lost or put at risk as a result of his politics.

H.R. 3049 includes the following package of bills: The Coal Miner Employment and Domestic Energy Infrastructure Protection Act, which bars the Environmental Protection Agency from issuing any regulation before December 31, 2013, that would adversely affect coal mining employment.

The Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act, which establishes State-level permitting programs for the storage of coal combustion residuals under the Solid Waste Disposal Act, which is now primarily used to regulate the management of municipal solid waste landfills and sewage landed fills.

□ 1040

The Energy Tax Prevention Act, which prevents the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases and any effort to address climate change.

The Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act, which prohibits the EPA from issuing a new or revised water quality standard when a State standard has already been approved by the EPA.

The Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation Act, or the TRAIN Act, which creates an interagency committee to examine the effects of current and proposed Federal regulations on U.S. energy and manufacturing industries, U.S. global competitiveness, U.S. and energy prices.

Again, it's not just a war on coal; it's a war on the use of carbon-based fuels—coal, oil, natural gas—which supply over 80 percent of our energy.

CONDEMNING VIOLENCE AGAINST SIKH COMMUNITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CHU. I rise today as a proud cosponsor of House Resolution 785, condemning the hate crimes, bullying, and brutal violence perpetrated against Sikh Americans and all acts of violence against Sikh Gurdwaras in the United States. In the face of unrelenting and unprovoked violence, it is clear that action must be taken.

The Sikh community has a long history of contributing to this Nation. Sikh farmers shaped California's agri-

culture industry, farming a third of the land and providing nature's bounty for others to enjoy. The very first Asian American to be elected to the U.S. Congress was a Sikh American, Dalip Singh Saund, elected in California in 1957. And Sikh temples all across the country have shown their beautiful spirit by giving free food, called langar, to everybody in the neighborhood who is hungry. And yet time and time again we see the good deeds of Sikh Americans met with undue violence from others. And in the wake of 9/11, this behavior spiked sharply. Just days after the attacks took place—as the soot still lingered over Manhattan and smoke still smoldered from a field in Pennsylvania—Balbir Singh Sodhi became the first victim of misplaced retaliation. He was in the gas station he had worked his entire life to own when a gunman shot at him and took his life.

Through the years the violence has not abated. Last year, in northern California, Surinder Singh and Gurmej Atwal, two elderly Sikh Americans, were doing what they always did every afternoon, taking a walk in the neighborhood, when suddenly they were shot. They were murdered in cold blood, but not for money or jealousy or revenge. They were murdered because of their turbans. And then there were the overwhelmingly shocking events of August 5 of this year in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. The Sikh community was peacefully preparing meals for Sunday prayer inside their gurdwara. But that peace was shattered without warning at the hands of a gunman filled with hate and rage. He fired indiscriminately and without cause, and when the smoke cleared, six innocent people lay dead. Although it has been more than a decade since 9/11, hysteria and stereotyping are still far too common. We must combat the growing wave of violence and intolerance that threatens the safety and civil liberties of the Sikh American community.

Today, while the FBI tracks the overall number of hate crimes taking place, it doesn't even record attacks specifically on Sikhs, despite the fact that we've seen over and over again that Sikhs are singled out over and over again because of their appearance and faith. That's why this resolution not only denounces the violence befalling this community; we're calling on the Department of Justice to finally begin documenting and quantifying hate crimes committed against Sikh Americans. As many as three out of four Sikh boys endure torment and bullying from their peers. And so we're urging educators across the Nation to help end the epidemic of bullying against Sikh youths. We're urging law enforcement officers in every locality to do all they can to prevent violence against this and all communities.

America was founded on the principles of religious freedom, acceptance, and tolerance. Let's make sure that every American can live safely and in peace. Let's make sure that every American is protected.

TIME TO RETHINK OUR FOREIGN AID

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Over the last week, we have watched as anti-American groups throughout the world have killed Americans, attacked our embassies, had protests, burned the American flag, and destroyed our property in many parts of the world. These events and events that have preceded them bring up that question again that these countries that we give aid to seem to be countries where there is violence against America. So I want to spend a few minutes talking about the aid Americans, when they write that check to the government, our government, spend all over the world.

This is a map of countries in the world that the United States of America taxpayers give assistance to worldwide. You'll see there are three colors. The red are colors that the United States gives foreign aid to. And you can see that's most of the countries in the world—and it is most of the countries. There are 191 countries in the world. Sometimes there are 193, depending on whether those last two are really countries or not. And American taxpayers give money to 158 of them. So you see those that are in the red. The green represents countries that we give military aid to. And the few little blue countries—a couple in Europe, a couple in Africa—those are countries we don't give any money to. By far, the minority. So you see the massive world as we know it, American money goes to most of it.

Now you notice over here there's a red block in this part of the world. And I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, you would recognize this massive country here. That's Russia. Yes, American aid goes to Russia. And did you know even though China controls so much of our debt, American money, yes, goes to China as well.

So maybe we need to rethink how we do this. With all the problems we've got in the United States, the taxpayers are writing checks for countries throughout the world. And here's how we vote on foreign aid. And I suspect the Senate does it the same way. We put all the countries in a list and in a bill and the State Department usually submits an amount of money they would like us to give to this country. And then this House votes "up" or "down" on all 158 countries.

Now maybe we ought to do business a little better. Maybe we should vote country by country. Some say, Oh, it'll take too long. Hey, we're talking about American money here. It wouldn't take very long at all. I think that if we voted "up" or "down" country per country, most of these countries are not going to get any aid from the United States in a bipartisan way. Of course, probably Israel would. And 80 percent of the money given to Israel is spent back in the United States. I